

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⊗ **DECORATIVE FIBER GLASS** for creating interior paneling, movable screens and indirect lighting effects is available in sheets that come in rolls 48 inches wide. The translucent sheeting produced in a variety of patterns is made of fiber glass matte coated with vinyl resin. Washable and durable, it can be cut into desired shapes and sizes. The panel material can be tacked or stapled to wood and hardboard or glued to metal and plastics.

• Science News Letter, 89:128 February 19, 1966

⊗ **GUMMED TAPE** that comes in a convenient dispenser box saves time and trouble. The box in which the tape is housed is made with a plastic moistener and cutter attached. Like a shipping room sealing tape machine, the tape is moistened as it is drawn from the box, then cut to the desired length on the cutting edge.

• Science News Letter, 89:128 February 19, 1966

⊗ **PLASTIC DOOR SIGNS** for use inside or outside the home are made especially for mothers with small children. The six signs in the set, which fit most door knobs, are reversible and include messages such as "Do not ring bell," "No milk today," "SHHH! Naptime," and "No Laundry Today." Printed in clear bold black letters on a white background, the signs are illustrated with cartoon designs easily understood by pre-school children.

• Science News Letter, 89:128 February 19, 1966



⊗ **ALUMINUM FOIL TAPE**, shown in photograph, comes in rolls and is useful for patching leaky downspouts, gutters, garbage pails, drainboards or air conditioning metalwork. The pressure-sensitive tape is applied after the area around the hole is cleaned with fine steel wool. The amount of tape necessary is cut off, firmly pressed down with a blunt tool over the area to be patched and then smoothed out to produce a weather-proof and long-lasting repair.

• Science News Letter, 89:128 February 19, 1966

⊗ **DISAPPEARING FACE WATCH** is a Swiss-made timepiece with a faceplate that appears and disappears. Designed with a polarized filter to produce this effect, the image of the picture used emerges every 20 seconds, stays for 10 seconds and disappears, the time always remaining visible. Any photo or picture desired can be reproduced on the watch.

• Science News Letter, 89:128 February 19, 1966

⊗ **PICTURE LIGHTS** bring life and enhance colors in pictures in the home. The lights which are like those used in many art galleries, attach to the back of the picture while its adjustable reflector extends outward from three to six inches in front of the picture. Its 10-inch cord is provided with a line switch to eliminate the need to plug and unplug the system. Finished with baked-on brass enamel, the unit comes with mounting screws and instructions.

• Science News Letter, 89:128 February 19, 1966

⊗ **TAPE CLEANER** that is "played" through a tape recorder like regular recording tape, frees heads and guides of tape recorders from dirt, oxides and plasticizers that accumulate increasing background noise and reducing clarity in playback. The cleaning tape made of cloth impregnated with a special cleaning and lubricating substance is ¼ inch wide and is available on 3 and 5 inch reels.

• Science News Letter, 89:128 February 19, 1966

• Doctors Are Reading •

Some Spinach Harms Babies

➤ **SPINACH** can be dangerous to babies. This is especially true if it is not strictly fresh and is pushed through a sieve as the Germans often prepare it.

One West German baby died and 13 others between the ages of two months and 10 months developed an anemic blood condition after eating spinach or drinking the water in which it was cooked, the British Medical Journal, Jan. 29, 1966, reported.

The Journal refers to a report by Drs. A. Sinios and W. Wodsak in Deutsche Medizinische Wochenschrift published in Stuttgart, Germany.

Nitrites were blamed for the dangerous blood condition that resulted, called methemoglobinemia. The word indicates the presence of methemoglobin, a form of hemoglobin incapable of combining with oxygen and therefore useless.

Diuretics Help Save Babies

➤ **PREGNANT WOMEN** are carefully watched by their physicians to prevent water-logging of tissues that sometimes precedes poisoning, or toxemia. Two Washington, D.C., doctors report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 195:429, 1966, that girls 17 years old or younger have been helped and their babies saved by preventive use of diuretics.

Drs. Frank A. Finnerty Jr., and Frank J. Bepco Jr. of D.C. General Hospital and Georgetown University used thiazides on

1,340 normal juveniles, comparing the results with toxemia and infant deaths in a control group of 1,743 normal teen-agers who did not receive the drugs unless frank symptoms appeared. The treated group showed a much lower percentage of premature births and infant deaths.

To be sure that the thiazide diuretics would not harm the growing fetus, the physicians delayed administering the drugs before the 12th week of pregnancy.

Uric Acid in Blood

➤ **"LEADERS" OF MEN** have in their blood an excessive amount of uric acid, which may stimulate their brains, two University of Michigan researchers have reported.

Too much uric acid, however, can cause gout, sometimes called the "disease of kings." The researchers believe uric acid, which is a nitrogenous waste of the body's metabolism, acts as a stimulant to the brain.

These conclusions are based on a study of 113 Ann Arbor faculty members who volunteered for examination during their annual physical checkup. Data on their work behavior were gathered by a clinical psychologist in voluntary, two-hour interviews.

Effects of uric acid on drive, achievement and leadership were reported by Dr. Ernst Mueller of the Institute for Social Research and the Mental Health Research Institute and George W. Brooks, a public health specialist, in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 195:415, 1966.

• Science News Letter, 89:128 February 19, 1966